

CHARD RURAL DISTRICT.

-- in the --

COUNTY OF SOMERSET.ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR THE YEAR ENDED31ST DECEMBER, 1939.TO: THE CHARD RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present a short Annual Report on the Sanitary Conditions of Chard Rural District for the Year ended 31st December, 1939.

Owing to the outbreak of War there has been a noticeable change in the population in the District caused by the return to the fighting Services of reservists and the joining up of many of the young men, and the consequent replacement of these either by older men or by women.

A number of children also entered the district during the Autumn of 1939 and were billeted in various parts of the area. These children were all medically inspected at the de-training Station before being allocated to the villages.

The health of the District was very good during the Year 1939.

There were 5 deaths of children under one year of age, as follows:-

Under 1 week ...	3.
1 - 6 months ...	1.
6 - 12 " ...	1.

There were a number of cases of Influenza and Febrile Catarrh during the early months of the year, but the majority of the cases were of a mild character and the outbreak was not on as extensive a scale as is usual in the early spring months.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Scarlet Fever, 19 cases, of which 15 were admitted to Isolation Hospital, no deaths.

Diphtheria, 4 cases, which were admitted to hospital with no deaths.

Pneumonia, 9 cases.


Puerperal Pyrexia, 2 cases, treated at home with no mortality.

Tuberculosis notifications showed -

New cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis - 10 cases;
Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis - 2 cases.

Deaths from Tuberculosis -

Pulmonary ... 3 deaths.
Non-Pulmonary.. 1 death.



Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2017 with funding from
Wellcome Library

<https://archive.org/details/b29097575>

The Hospital and Health Services of the District remain much as before.

Ambulance facilities in addition to War emergency additions were improved by the provision of a Motor Ambulance at Ilminster staffed by the newly organised Men's Red Cross Detachment.

WATER SUPPLIES.

There has been little change in the Water Supplies of the District since my previous report. Schemes for supplies to the hamlets of Roundham and the village of Clapton were under consideration, but were not commenced during the year.

SEWAGE DISPOSAL.

The existing plants worked satisfactorily during the year, as did the Refuse disposal by controlled tipping. No new sewage works were put in hand during the year.

HOUSING.

New Houses erected during the Year:-

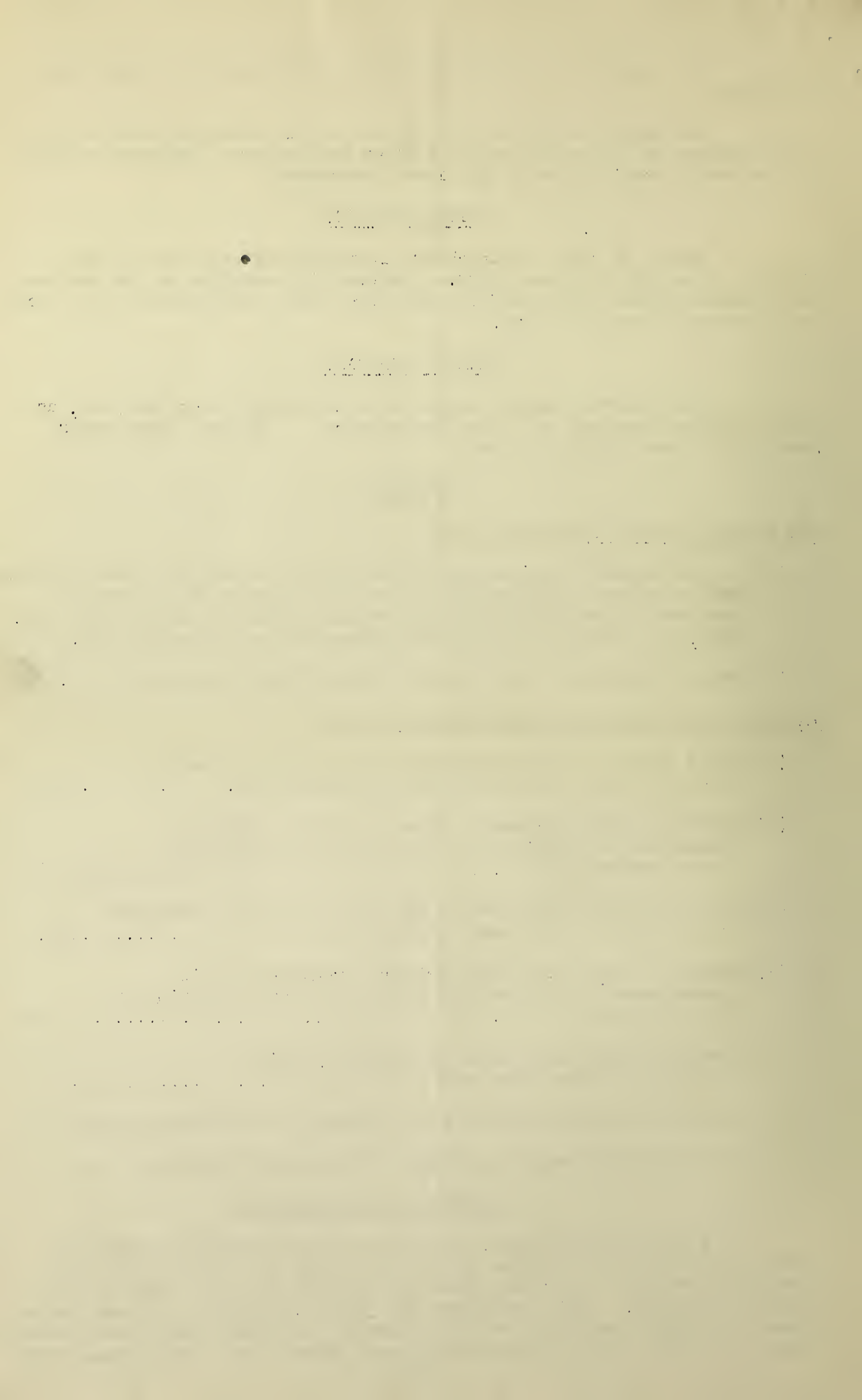
- (1) No new houses were erected by the Council during the Year. Tenders were received in August, 1939, for the erection of 64 houses proposed to be built under the Housing (Financial Provisions) Act, 1938, but owing to the War the scheme was not proceeded with.
- (2) Houses erected by other persons without State assistance23

Inspection of Dwelling-houses during the Year:-

- (1) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts).....320
- (2) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation..... 31
- (3) Number of dwelling-houses found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation.....107
- (4) Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers..... 78
- (5) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made..... 10
- (6) Number of houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders 13
- (7) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the Year..... 7

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION.

A considerable number of young children between the ages of 1 and 5 were immunised against Diphtheria during the year by the local Doctors in the area under the scheme inaugurated by the County Medical Officer of Health. This procedure was quite successful, I myself saw no cases of outward reaction, nor did I hear of any among other practitioners' cases. It is to be hoped that still more parents will avail themselves



of the facilities of this excellent method of protection against Diphtheria.

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF.

The Staff of the Public Health Department like so many others was seriously depleted at the outbreak of War by the departure on active service of the Second Sanitary Inspector and the Pupil Assistant. Mr. Whisker, the Chief Sanitary Inspector, has, however, succeeded in carrying on the work of the Department very efficiently in spite of many difficulties.

I am, Mr. Chairman, Ladies & Gentlemen,

Yours faithfully,

(sd) C. C. COURT, M.B., Ch.B.
D.P.H.

Medical Officer of Health,
Chard Rural District Council.

23rd August, 1940.

COUNTY OF SOMERSET.

CHARD RURAL DISTRICT.

A N N U A L R E P O R T

- OF THE -

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR

1 9 3 9 .